

Application No. 10/603,221
Amendment Dtd 09/02/2004
Reply to Office Action Dtd 08/02/2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract of the disclosure with the following amended abstract:

The present invention provides an apparatus for propelling a small boat through a body of water by ~~means-use~~ of a sculling action. The apparatus may be comprised of a vertical stock attached to a vertical surface of the boat, normally the transom. A wide, flexible fin may project outwardly and rearwardly from the bottom end of the vertical stock. ~~An actuating means, typically a~~ A tiller[[,]] may extend from the top end of the vertical stock towards the bow of the boat. The pumping action on the ~~actuating means~~ tiller causes the fin to move back and forth in a sculling action so as to propel the boat through the water. The apparatus may be easily folded into a compact package for storage in the boat either for emergency use or for storage of the boat. The fin may be bifurcated into a plurality of panels for more compact and efficient storage. Plates provided to hold the fin in a vertical orientation may have flanges along their upper edges to provide a step for easy reentry of a swimmer into the boat.